

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

April 9, 1998

Dear Lester:

We are writing to voice our concerns about the technical review process for near-term CALFED ecosystem investments. Specifically, we are concerned about: 1) lack of progress on implementing steps to develop an "action plan" to guide near-term ecosystem investments; and 2) CALFED staff's recommendation, presented at the March 13, 1998 Ecosystem Roundtable meeting, to eliminate the "integration step" at the end of the technical review process.

Need to Develop an "Action Plan"

At the Ecosystem Roundtable's February 11, 1998 meeting, CALFED staff presented its "Draft Workplan to Implement 1998/99 Planning Process." The Workplan described CALFED convening regional workgroups comprised of Roundtable members and technical experts in the March to May timeframe. These workgroups would develop prioritized lists of actions that would be compiled into an annual draft action plan available for review in the May to June timeframe. We are concerned about the lack of progress made in implementing the process described in the Workplan.

Need to Maintain an "Integration Step"

To date, the Integration Panel has successfully provided technical input by prioritizing stressors and species, proposing funding allocations, and recommending comprehensive packages of restoration investments. This latter "clearinghouse" function is especially critical to ensuring restoration monies are spent in the most synergistic manner. Further, maintaining this integration step, carried out by a diverse stakeholder and agency panel, will strengthen both stakeholder and CALFED support for the technical recommendations.

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In conclusion, we strongly urge CALFED to develop the action plan in a timely manner and maintain the integration functions carried out by the Integration Panel. Certainly CALFED's ability to address our concerns is largely a function of availability of staffing resources. We have increasingly strong concerns about deficiencies in this area. It is essential that we meet as soon as possible to explore ways we can assist you in ensuring that you have the resources needed to accomplish these and other tasks critical for continued success of the CALFED effort.

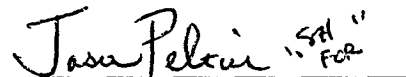
Sincerely,



Gary Booker
The Bay Institute



Greg Gartrell
Contra Costa Water District



Jason Peltier
CVP Water Users Association